

12/15/91

Agenda for 1/25/91 meeting?

The decision has been made to go ahead and review the records through 1989 before entry of 1990. As we had discussed at the previous meeting, this means a trip to Boone to compare the computerized records with the paper files. An ideal scenario would go something like this: peruse the printout for obvious errors or rarities that need supporting documentation; create a working card for each block from the paper files; check it against the printout for entry errors or omissions. Yes, this is a lot of work, but worth it in the long run. The 1990 data will be scrutinized and double-checked as entered so this will be the only data checking that will be done. While making up working cards, please make sure to tally hours as accurately as possible. This will help in doing summary statistics on the completed data set. Also, try to list observer names (and hours) for eventual acknowledgments and awards. This could be recorded on a separate sheet and tallied up later. Everyone ready to quit yet?

THE BOOK!!

Writing: who, what, how, etc. Time to make some serious decisions on how to handle the final product. We seem to have an unspoken agreement to divy up the writing chores among ourselves? If so, think about which groups of species you would be most comfortable dealing with. We also need to think about an editor (one of us or hire?) to merge diverse writing styles, do editing, and keep the pressure on to get it done. Jim, perhaps you could share with us how this was handled for Iowa Birds.

What should be covered for each bird. We talked about this before, but no consensus was reached. Most other states and countries have had discussions of distribution, habitat, nesting characteristics, and old records. Bring your ideas.

Maps. The digitized data has been turned over to the GIS folks in Des Moines. John, can you bring an example of work map to the meeting. How long will it take to produce species maps once data is all entered. Also, you indicated that final copy maps can be done outside the department. Any estimates on cost?

Artwork. Laura was going to check on the availability of some from Minnesota? If not, we need to solicit some artists soon. If DNR is considering publication, can any artwork be done in the department?

Funding. We haven't ruled out the possibility of DNR funding. Is this realistic. We still probably need some money for art, maps, other. Bob, how is the solicitation letter coming?

There are possibly some other surces of data out there that could be checked for additions to the blocks.

1. Breeding Bird Survey data - I have requested a copy of the route maps for Iowa and will see if any of the stops are in blocks.
2. Foray data - would there be any that isn't already entered?
3. Field reports - most would not be useable, but some reports are linked to state or county areas that are blocks, probably worth checking.
4. Nest card records - ??

As a final note, I have included a few pages from the Florida atlas project. Many of their woes sound surprisingly familiar.